

(f) Public involvement**(1) Public awareness and participation program**

The Secretary shall develop and conduct a program to promote and encourage awareness of and participation in the development of the general management plan for the Preserve by persons owning property in the vicinity of the Preserve, other interested groups and individuals, State, county, and municipal agencies, and the general public. Prior to final approval of the plan, the Secretary shall hold public meetings in DeKalb and Cherokee Counties.

(2) Consideration of public comment

In preparing and implementing the plan described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give full consideration to the views and comments of the individuals, groups, and agencies described in paragraph (1).

(g) Green Pitcher Plant

Upon the transfer by Alabama Power Company to the United States of any lands within the boundaries of the Preserve that contain the Green Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia oreophila*), all rights and obligations of Alabama Power Company under the agreement entered into between the company and the Department of the Interior (including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) on May 12, 1983, in settlement of the action brought on September 24, 1980, against the Secretary and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama (Civil Action No. CV 80-C-1242-M), shall be extinguished. (Pub. L. 102-427, §3, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2179.)

§ 698s. Acquisition**(a) Authorization****(1) In general**

Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(2) Consent of the owner

The Secretary may not acquire lands, waters, or interests in lands and waters for the Preserve without the consent of the owner.

(3) State lands

Lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve that are owned by the State of Alabama, or any political subdivision of the State, may be acquired only by donation or exchange.

(b) Negotiations for acquisition**(1) Commencement of negotiations**

Immediately after publication of a description of the boundaries of the Preserve in accordance with section 698q(d) of this title, the Secretary shall commence negotiations for the acquisition of the lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve.

(2) Report to Congress

Not later than 1 year after October 21, 1992, the Secretary shall submit, in writing, a de-

tailed schedule of actions and a progress report regarding the acquisition to—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committees on Appropriations of Congress.

(3) Acquisition deadline

The Secretary shall substantially complete the acquisition of the lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the Preserve, in accordance with the purposes of sections 698q to 698t of this title, not later than 2 years after October 21, 1992, subject to the availability of funds.

(c) Environmental audits**(1) Availability to owner**

Promptly following completion of any environmental audit performed by or on behalf of the Secretary with respect to any property proposed to be acquired for the purposes of sections 698q to 698t of this title, the Secretary shall make available to the owner of the property a copy of the audit.

(2) Inclusion in documents transferring title

Any audit described in paragraph (1), and any environmental audit performed by the owner of the property and submitted to the Secretary prior to the date of the acquisition, shall be included as part of the documents transferring title to the property to the United States.

(d) Future additions

No lands or interest in lands may be added to the Preserve after October 21, 1992, without specific authorization by Congress and the consent of the owner of the lands or interest.

(Pub. L. 102-427, §4, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2181; Pub. L. 103-437, §6(d)(36), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4585.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 103-437 substituted “Natural Resources” for “Interior and Insular Affairs”.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives treated as referring to Committee on Resources of House of Representatives by section 1(a) of Pub. L. 104-14, set out as a note preceding section 21 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 698t. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out sections 698q to 698t of this title.

(Pub. L. 102-427, §5, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2182.)

§ 698u. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: findings and purposes**(a) Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) of the 400,000 square miles of tallgrass prairie that once covered the North American Continent, less than 1 percent remains, primarily in the Flint Hills of Kansas;